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FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

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I. HIGHLIGHTS AND OUTLOOK

Total fish landings increased again in 1965 in term of both quantity and value.

There was an appreciable increase in export returns; imports registered lesser gains over 1964.

For the first time, a governmental budget appropriation of fl. 2 million was spent for the improvement of the industry.

Beginning on November 1, 1965, the fishing fleets of Holland and Belgium were permitted to fish in one another's territorial waters.

No steps were taken by Dutch government to extend it's territorial fishing limits and none are anticipated.

II. GOVERNMENT POLICIES

In addition to the budgetary appropriation mentioned above, much of the credit due for the improvement of the industry is attributable to the policies of the present Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries.

His ministry subsidized the withdrawal of 30 obsolete drift net trawlers, granted bonuses for quality fish brought in in non-returnable wooden boxes, and granted subsidies for the first time for exploratory trips to the fishing grounds off the north coast of Ireland, the west coast of England, and the Egersund area.

III. FISH LANDINGS

A. GENERAL

The total catch declined from the 1964 level of 330 thousand tons to 320,995 tons. Generally prevailing higher prices pushed the value of the catch up to fl. 188.8 million, well above the fl. 162 million realized in 1964.

B. HERRINGS-SALTED AND FRESH

There was a sharp decline in landings of both salted and fresh herring, a situation reportedly experienced throughout Western Europe, resulting in an equally sharp rise in prices.

To total salted herring catch amounted to 35,380 tons (1964: 47,697 tons) valued at fl. 28.3 million (1964: 30.1 million). Salted herring exports totalled 28,366 tons worth fl. 29.7 million (1964: 35,953 tons/fl. 30.6 million).

The fresh herring catch, following 1964's postwar high, dropped to 37,337 tons with a value of fl. 16.9 million (1964: 56,708 tons/fl. 16.3 million). Despite a drop of almost 10,000 tons in the catch, this sector realized increased earnings of fl. 600000, a graphic example of the rise in prices. The average price rose to fl. 0.45 per kilo, approximately 50% higher than 1964.

C. OTHER SEA FISH

This was a particularly improved sector which registered a 32.6% gain over 1964 with landings totaling 114,973 tons worth fl. 98.6 million (1964: 86,694 tons/fl. 79.3 million).

Mackerel and roundfish results again showed improvement. Codfish showed a remarkable rise to 17,577 tons valued at fl. 11.1 million (1964: 9,117 tons/fl. 6.5 million).

D. FRESH WATER FISH

The 1965 catch improved on the excellent results attained in 1964. Landings totaled 2,985 tons valued at fl. 9.8 million (1964: 2,894 tons/fl. 7.9 million). Once again the eel catch accounted for the bulk of the fresh water results with 2,275 tons worth fl. 9.2 million.

E. SHRIMPS, MUSSELS, AND OYSTERS

Shrimping enjoyed a profitable year. Although the catch dropped to 8,232 tons (9,478 tons), increased demand drove up both domestic and foreign prices. The value of the catch amounted to fl. 17.3 million as opposed to the fl. 11.3 million earned in 1964.

Mussel production fell below last year's record high to 960,845 mussel tons (1964: over 1 million tons). The quality was described as generally good. (Note: 1 mussel ton = 100 kilograms)

An attempt to restore the Dutch oyster beds was made through the used of imported seedlings from France, Ireland and Portugal. The 1965 figure of 486,000 oysters sold was approximately one-third higher than the 1964 figure.

IV. DISTANT WATER FISHING

Subsidization of distant water fishing amounted to fl. 1.7 million in 1965.

A report issued by the so-called "Ireland-Hebrides Project" stated that the fishing grounds are there but can only be profitably exploited by fishing fleets.

V. THE FISHING FLEET

The composition of the Dutch fishing fleet by class of vessels as of the end of 1965 is shown in the following tabulation:

Steam trawlers and lugger	2
Other steam vessels	2
Motor trawlers and luggers	175
Moter cutters	676
Motor vessels 7 GRT or more	470
Motor vessels less than 7 GRT	115
Sail vessels and rowing boats	97
	1.537

Four new trawlers were added to the fleet, two of them stern trawlers bringing the total number of stern trawlers to 11.

During 1965, four cutters were lost at sea, six were sold abroad, and eighteen were retired or scrapped. Seven new cutters were added.

VI. FOREIGN TRADE

A. GENERAL

Exports of fish and fish products, excluding fishmeal, gained over 1964 with shipments of 193,729 tons which sold for fl. 225.1 million (1964: 192,293 tons/fl. 195.2 million).

The other EEC countries were again the chief customers importing 167,858 tons worth fl. 181.1 million.

Imports of fish and fish products, excluding fishmeal, reached a total of 39,005 tons and fl. 91 million in value. (1964: 34,001 tons/fl. 76.8 million). The principal import was canned salmon supplied, in order of importance, by Japan, the U.S.A., and Canada. Imports of fresh and frozen fish remained at approximately the 1964 level totaling 15,888 tons worth fl. 26.9 million.

The most important markets for Dutch canned fish products in 1965 were: West Germany, France, Benelux, Congo (Kinshasa), Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Italy in that order.

B. UNITED STATES

Fish oil remained the most important U.S. fishery product exported to the Netherlands amounting in 1965 to 14 thousand tons valued at fl. 10.9 million compared to the previous year's 10 thousand tons at fl. 6.7 million. Peru remains the principal supplier of fish oil to the Netherlands; the U.S. is the second most important.

There was a slight improvement in the most important Dutch fish exports to the United States: frozen fish and fish fillets, and smoked and dried fish. There was a slight decline in the export of salted and dried herring.

VII. DOMESTIC MARKETING

The Fishery Board spent fl. 221,000 in 1965 in a variety of media to popularize the consumption of fish products. Per capita consumption, in kilos, for the past five years is shown in the following table.

Year	Herring	Sea Fish	Shell Fish	Canned Fish	Fresh Water Fish	Total
1961	2.4	4.3	0.8	1.3	0.5	9.3
1962	0.9	4.5	1.1	1.2	0.4	8.1
1963	3.0	4.8	1.2	1.2	0.5	10.7
1964	2.0	5.0	1.6	1.3	0.5	10.4
1965 (est)	1.5	5.3	1.5	1.4	0.5	10.2

It is noteworthy that the Embassy has been approached for assistance by a number of Dutch importers interested in importing American fish products. One reliable source reported that the Dutch are now importing quantities of live New Jersey eels by air freight to satisfy domestic demand; eel is considered a delicacy in the Netherlands.

VIII. LABOR CONDITIONS

Labor conditions eased considerably during the year in comparison to previous years. Captains of well outfitted vessels reported no difficulties in finding suitable crews.

IX. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The West European Fishery Conference met in Scheveningen in The Hague in the latter part of September 1965.

Research articles are regularly published in the monthly journal of the Bureau of Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Visserij Nieuws. Topics treated during 1965 included shrimp fishing, vessels and herring migration.

X. INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES POLICY

As of November 1, 1965, the Netherlands and Belgium began to share their territorial fishing waters.

No indication was given of any intention by the Netherlands to extend the limits of their territorial waters.

Governmental support of the fishing industry still remains far lower than that of the other EEC partners.

Note: a. all weights in this report, unless otherwise specified, are expressed in metric tons.

b. $1.00 = fl. 3.60.